

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers. Published by Ralph F. Cummings, Box 75, Fisherville, Mass., U. S. A. Price \$1.00 per year or ten cents a copy.

Ad. rates—1c per word, 25c per inch (about 30 words). Quarter page \$1.00. Half page \$1.75, Full page \$3.00. Display adverts., 50c per inch. Four consecutive insertions for the price of three.

Vol. 6

July 1937

No. 64

DIME NOVEL COLLECTING

By "Deadwood Dick Jr."

The motto of stamp collectors is, "The King of Hobbies, and the Hobby of Kings." And also they quote, "A Hobby to Fit Every Pocketbook." How true all this applies to our hobby of dime novel collecting; except that as far as I know, it is not as yet "The Hobby of Kings." But if we can believe the words of the late Huey Long "Every Man a King," then we can go on the assumption that we are all kings. So the above quotation would apply verbatim.

But seriously, dime novel collecting is a fast growing hobby, fast rivaling the two leading hobbies of stamp collecting and coin collecting. One needs no great amount of money to start a collection of dime novels. A dollar or two will purchase a dozen or so of the Wolff or Westbury Company reprints of the one time famous Frank Tousey publications, such as Fame & Fortune, Wild West Weekly, Secret Service, Pluck & Luck, Work & Win, etc. Or for about the same price each, complete sets of Westbrooks, Deadwood Dick Library and Beadles Frontier Series can be secured. But digressing a moment, I want to say a word to the advanced collector, do not trouble yourself with these two sets because you consider them CHEAP, and prefer to collect the earlier and more rare and costly issues of Beadles, Tousey, Munro, Ornum, Frank Starrs, and Street & Smith. Here you make a

mistake. As you should secure sets of these two while they are still cheap as soon they like all other dime novels, will be "out of print," and no longer available. Then you will have to pay plenty to secure them, from such few brother collectors as have duplicates in stock.

Graduating from the "small reprint" and Westbrook type of novel, the growing collector will find available almost any type of novel that he can desire, if he has the price. It all depends on what he wants. Original colored cover Tousey novels, also Street & Smith, can still be bought at from 25c up to \$1.00. Such as Wild West, Buffalo Bill Stories, Secret Service, Diamond Dick Jr., Pluck & Luck, New Nick Carter Weekly, etc. But for the RARE colored cover novels, one will have to pay plenty. Such as Adventure Weekly, Frank Reade Weekly Magazine, Blue & Gray, Red, White & Blue, James Boys Weekly, Jesse James Stories, etc. Some of these rare colored cover novels are harder to locate, and once located are harder to purchase and much higher in price, than the much more valuable and earlier editions of the black and white era of novels. Coming to black and white novels, I will mention a few of the leading ones. Beadles Dime and Half Libraries, Wide A Wake Library, Log Cabin Library, Old Cap Collier Library, Comic Library, Nugget Library, etc. These can still be bought for prices ranging from 50c to \$2.00 each. A slightly higher price for the rarer more scarce issues. But

In a class by themselves is another type of black and white novels, such as Little Chief Library (both octave and quarto editions) Frank Reade Library, Boys of New York Pocket Library, Boys Star Library, etc. These will cost one at least twice the price, often more, than the aforementioned, more common type of black and white novel. Then we come to the "so-called" most rare type of novel. These are the early booklet type novel, in fact the very earliest of our so called "dime novels." Such as Beadles Dime Novels, New Dime Novels, Beadles Twenty Cent Novels, Frank Starrs American Novels, Beadles Pocket Novels, Munro's Ten Cent Novels, etc. Now the odd thing about novel collecting, is that these, the very earliest type of dime novel, is the least in demand of any type of novel on the market. Even the cheapest type of novel to be had, the Wolff and Westbury reprints, are in more demand than these early booklet novels, in spite of the fact that these early booklets can be purchased for from \$1.50 to \$3.00 each. A very cheap price, considering that reprints of them published at least 20 years later in black and white format, in many cases sell for double the price, if one of the so called "rare issues." The fact remains without dispute, that the modern collector simply will not "take up" with these booklet type novel, to any extent.

Even preferring the cheapest kind of reprints to them. Just why is a mystery. Possibly because the modern collector, collects only the kinds that interested him in boyhood. If so, of course the booklet are "out." As the men who read those in their youth, have largely passed on. The possibilities in collecting novels is limitless. One may want only Indian Stories. Here one may run the gamut from the early booklets to the small size reprints, and obtain a collection of several hundreds of novels on that one type of story alone. How? the amateur may ask. Well, several hundreds of this type could be had in the booklets alone. Several hundreds more in the black and white such as Beadles Dimes and Half Dimes, Nickels, Little Chiefs, Wide A Wakes, Log Cabins, Campfire Librarys etc. Detective stories, sea stories, city life stories, etc. can be collected by the hundreds in the same way. But all this would cost money and plenty of it. But the same can be done in colored covers at as much cheaper price. And cheaper still

the same thing can be done in the small size reprints.

Personally, I collect Indian stories, but lack of cash forbids me to collect them on the big scale that I have mentioned. I collect only those that appear in Beadles Dime and Half Dime Librarys, Pluck & Luck, Brave & Bold, Wide A Wake Library, etc. While I have a nice little collection of these, my collection is far from complete, and I am still lacking many many novels on this one type of Tale alone. An odd thing (to me at least) is that some of the largest collectors of dime novels tell me that they never read any of their novels. Just get them and stack them away, just why? This greatly reminds me of a miser hoarding his gold and never getting the good of it. Finally he dies and then some one else has a good time on it. Same way with you novel misers. Some one else will sell your novels after you are gone, and have a good time on the money, so obtained. Ninety per cent of my enjoyment in novel collecting comes from my pleasure in reading them. If I did not care to read them, I never could become interested enough in them to collect them. The man of moderate means will ask, how can I start a novel collection? I can not afford to purchase them from dealers. A very good way to start is to get out and make a personal search for them. Look in attics, in houses where the same family has lived for several generations. Look in bookstore basements where the tenant or owner has been located for years. These are the most likely places to find novels. Novels are more likely to be found in this way in small towns and cities, as in the larger cities the field has now been pretty much canvassed for novels.

I got my start in novels in this manner. My first find was 600 black and whites rescued from oblivion, from the basement of a local book store. Just recently a friend who knew I was interested in novels ran across 700 small size reprints and bought them at a very cheap price for me. These were in a farm house attic. Just a couple of weeks later this same friend found and bought nearly 1000 old story papers for me. New York Ledgers, New York Weekly, Fireside Companions, etc. These were discovered in an old shed, tied up in bundles, along with big bales of newspaper. The whole awaiting the junkman, to be sold at old paper prices. My friend, being one jump ahead of

the junkman, bought the story papers at a price not much more than they would have brought from the junkman. Enlist your friends to add you. Go out and make a personal search yourself if possible. They can and are being found in this manner. And at prices that novel dealers could never possibly duplicate. Don't waste your money by advertising for them. I have tried this several times without results. One of the largest collectors in this country spent hundreds of dollars annually advertising in newspapers and magazines all over the country. Of late years, with practically no results whatever. I understand that he has now given up advertising for novels, as a pure waste of money. If you are a man of moderate means, don't become discouraged about starting a collection. Get out and make a personal search for them. They can be found. And usually at prices that will surprise you. And with a bit of luck, in only a short time you will find yourself the owner of a respectable stack of dime novels.

OLD CAP COLLIER AND NORMAN L. MUNRO

By L. H. Lahmon

Route 3 Angola, Ind.

Some time ago one of the members wanted to know when Munro left Beadle & Adams and went into business for himself, and also the articles by Irwin S. Cobb was interesting from a readers view, of what harmed children. I read many different 5c and 10c novels, and the good overbalanced the bad, or was it bad?

My first experience with Old Cap Collier, chief of Detectives, or Piping the Mystery of Savin Rock, and Old Cap was called in to solve the case. But I could not get the complete story, nor the finish of it. First two men and two girls jumped Collier the first day, in a beer garden. Cap knocked the mens heads together, and dropped them right there, and when they came too, the men and the two girls went away, then a girl who was single minded or pretended to become into the picture, also a couple of husky men, named Hicks and Chip, although Collier was a giant, he had to shoot Chip, when they tackled him in a house which they used as a hang out. After shooting Chip, Collier threw Hicks down stairs and escaped, and

the simple girl went with him. What her position was in the case I never found out. I would give \$1.00 for the complete story, and if memory is good after nearly 50 years, it started in no. 464 of Family Story Paper, and the date was about 1884. So Munro must have started in the early 70's. Perhaps the only way to find out would be through the Library of Congress. They might have one of the first issues. It was under March 3rd act of 1879. The Old Cap Collier story was by Young Iron Chd., or Solving the Castle Garden Mystery and was by Old Cap Collier. So I reckon both were written by "Old Sleuth" or the writer who wrote the "Sleuth" stories. Other good stories were, Young Badger, the Seaside Detective, or in the Employ of the Government. He was to beat Seligman, the Second Sight Detective, in solving a case which had plenty of body snatching, and queer bricks, mixed in. Seligman was a smart and tricky chap, and then we find Lynx Lyons, the Washington Detective, Bradshaw, the Wide A Wake Detective, "Hunter," the Montreal Detective, The Young Girl From the Country, and Little Barefoot, and many others, that were fine. The House of Munro entertained thousands of readers, and their passing from the publishing world is to be regretted. Their stories were far in advance of anything of today, and the cheap reading of today deals with the cigarette smoking, drinking, swearing and what not, of the present time and the talk used is not the high grade of 40 years ago. None of "Munro's" stories were left to readers of today as he did not print any of his stories in book form. A fad to be regretted now, especially by old time readers.

A FRIENDLY LETTER

Dear Mr. Austin:—

Was pleased to get your letter, found it most interesting as you told about things that I know nothing about, namely "black and whites." You know I am only a kid being 50 years old. Still if I were about 2 years older I'd bet I would have known and loved the "black and whites," but the color covers were just out when I began to read them so the older types were spurned by me.

Gee, you have made some wonderful finds lately, haven't you. Those 6

copies of Nugget Lib all Diamond Dick must indeed be rare. I have just one copy of Nugget and one copy of Diamond Dick Lib but neither of them are Diamond Dick stories.

Curiosity got the best of me the other week and as I never saw a copy of the New York Det. Lib. and had this offered to me I bought it. It was an old King Brady story before he has Harry as a partner and I got a great kick out of it, it was an interesting story.

I'll bet I would have a most enjoyable visit if I could get down to see you and hope to do so some time but the time is not now, will have to wait till things are a little better for me.

Good old Phila. I haven't been there for years. I never think of Philly without three things coming to my mind. One; being in the old post office writing some picture post cards and hearing a strange noise in the air and people rushed off the sidewalks and into the streets and traffic about stopped while everyone peered up in the sky as history was being made that day. Beachy, the aviator had performed the incredible feat of flying from New York to Phila, unbelievable. Second, 1914, buying a paper in the Broad St. Station and sitting down and reading in it that England had declared war on Germany. Third, in March 1917 being in Ostendorff's on Market St. for some of that good German beer and food and seeing the German war trophies around the walls.

Thanks for sending me the list of color covers. There is nothing I wish from it so I will return it as it might save you copying if you wished to send it out to some one else.

Novels is I think a most enjoyable hobby. When things have gone dead wrong you have something you can interest yourself in. It is better than stamps because you can only look at stamps but novels you can look at and also enjoy reading.

I often wonder what will become of our novels eventually. The young generation have no interest in them, but I think there will always be collectors enough to take care of them tho I doubt after our generation is gone that any will ever love them as we have done. Why all during my last days in grammar school and thru high school almost every boy read novels and Tip Top was almost our bible in the matter of square dealings in sports. Why I remember as if it were

yesterday the week that Tip Top 260 was published. Frank Merriwell's Sweetheart or The Girl to Whom He Proposed. The Elsie-Inza controversy had been built up by Burt L. to a fever heat till we boys would almost come to blows over it, and this week's issue was to decide it once for all. No wonder we were excited. That afternoon when I got out of school a bunch of us made for the nearest news stand to be met with "Sold Out." Some of the fellows got a copy sooner than I but I remember I walked from State St. almost to Carew St. before I found a place that had a copy left. A distance of about 11 city blocks. Those were the days of thrills for a nickel, I'll tell you. And the week that Street and Smith increased the size to the large size issue. Another thrill. That week I bought Tip Top 265, Nick Carter 228 and Diamond Dick 239. DAYS YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIVE OVER.

Very truly,
Harold C. Holmes

NEWS OF THE MONTH

We hear that George French has gone up into the good old state of Maine. He'll be there until the late fall, and Keezer Falls is the place he'll reside.

Sure fine weather we are having, and too good to stay in the house these days with the old timers, after our days work is done. Most of the fellows are off somewhere these fine days, but not so with ye President, for he's right on the job, and bunks with them every night, after a good hard days work, whoopee.

For his forthcoming book on the Beadles novels, professor Albert Johannsen, of the University of Chicago, wishes verbatim copies of the obituary notices, especially if biographical data are given, of any of the authors of the Beadle novels. Any help will be thankfully received.

What do you think of the nice big ad on the back cover? Guess most of the fellows will think it nearly broke my heart, to really get out an ad once more.

Send 10c to T. G. Mauritzsen, 211 McCartney Bldg., 404 W. 9th St., Los Angeles, Calif., for a copy of "Welcome News," for May, as there is a fine article on "Dime Novels" by Wal-

ter Pannell, a new member which I am in hopes of having soon.

Have you seen the Rare Book Speculator, that James Madison, P. O. Box 124, Grand Central Station, New York City, puts out? Better get a copy, the price is 35c. Know your book values.

I hear we've so much money in this country that they are burning it up by the thousands, a short time ago, the treasury burned up \$198,176 worth of currency, in the old large size bills valued by collectors at \$1,000,000. If we had that pile, we sure could buy up all the novels on the market.

Street & Smith of New York, has given up publishing boys books, as there is more money in publishing love story books and magazines, so fellows, better get your wants in Buffalo Bill, Nick Carter, The Merriwell's Ted Strong, and others, before they go out of print.

Gilbert Patton, who brought Frank Merriwell into the fiction world under the pseudonym Burt L. Standish, will see his and every kid's hero of the 90's shortly in moving pictures. Donald Briggs is to be the cinema Merriwell at Patten's suggestion. The old five-cent novel figure failed to die with the passing of that form of publication. A 10-cent Frank Merriwell book in the 5 and 10's sold 295,000 copies since last February. There are still Frank Merriwell Boy Clubs over the land. Patten himself, now white-haired but agile, joins his old cronies every week near the Washington Square for a round of bottle pool.

FREE AD SPACE OF 20 WORDS TO MEMBERS & SUBSCRIBERS ONLY

Have a few copies of the War Library and pocket edition of the Log Cabin Library to exchange for my wants in Beadles Dime Library. W. M. Burns, 15 Cottage St., Rockland, Maine.

Wild Wests, Fairs & Fortunes, Pluck & Lucks and numerous others for Young Klondikes, Three Chums, Tip Tops, Yankee Doodles and others. — What have you? L. C. Skinner, 36 Chaplin St., Pawtucket, R. I.

Bretts "Boys of the Empire" nos. 259 to 291 (1905-06) containing some fine yarns and good old woodcut illu., to trade Black & Whites. Also have Dime novels to trade. Geo. S. Barton, 126 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, Mass.

Have a large amount of novels and story papers of all kinds to trade for others. Your list for mine. P. J. Morin 1951 E. 30th St., Oakland, Calif.

Want Happy Days nos. 1 to 125 in good condition, what do you want? Ralph P. Cummings, Fisherville Mass.

Have about 30 to 35 years of Inland Printer (a straight run). What's offered? Arvid Dahlstedt, P. O. Box 67, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

NEW NEWS OF OLD

Buccaneers originated in the West Indies, and were originally men who preserved beef and pork by drying it over a smoky fire. This meat they called boucan. The meat was preserved for several weeks in this state. The buccaneers lived in pairs or groups of five.

Horatio Alger, was born in 1843, and died in 1899. He was in the ministry until 1864, and came to New York City to live. More than 100 novels were based on the idea that virtue is always rewarded were written by the author who gave away to poor boys most of his income and died in poverty.

A man by the name of Savinien Cyrano De Bergerac (1619-1665) made forecasts of modern discoveries, among which was the phonograph. Employing fiction to teach natural science he was a forerunner of Jules Verne.

Richard Turpin, known to us all as Dick Turpin, was born at Hempstead Essex, England. He was apprenticed to a butcher, and later was detected in cattle stealing, and fled, and joined up with Tom King and his band of thieves. His father was an innkeeper. Tom King, whom Dick Turpin fatally shot when trying to prevent Kings arrest. Turpin then escaped into Yorkshire, where he passed as a gentleman, but was soon suspected, and was captured with stolen horses, and was tried and executed.

Buffalo Bill Cody, Scout and Pony Express Rider, was born in 1864 in Scott County, Iowa. He died at Denver, Col. the 10th of January, 1917.

PARTIAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE H. H. B. FOR 1937

Nos.

9. FRED T. SINGLETON, 1036 N.

- W. 29th Terrace, Miami, Fla.
 26. ROBERT FRYE, Morgan Ave.,
 Schenectady, N. Y.
 32. M. BERTRAND COUCH, P. O.
 Box 2297, San Francisco, Calif.
 33. KOWALCZYK BROS., 91 Ward
 St., Worcester, Mass. New mem-
 ber.
 36. P. J. MORAN, 1951 E. 30th St.,
 Oakland, Calif.
 47. GEORGE H. CORDIER, 148 W.
 51st St., Los Angeles, Calif.
 70. DON BREWER, 443 N. 5th St.,
 Stroudsburg, Pa. New member.

"BLOODS" AND THE FATHERS

by Henry Steele

These ranged from the "Tuppenny Bloods" and "Penny Dreadfuls," which never ceased to delight him, to Newman's sermons and the Early Fathers.

What was more, he stored their contents in his vast photographic memory in places from which they could be produced at a moment's notice.

"To see him reading," an old friend once told me, "was like watching a man empty a tankard at a draught."

He would pick up a book like "The Apes of God" and absorb it eagerly and quickly. In half the time it would take most men to read the book he would have finished it, stored its contents in his memory and be ready to discuss it with complete knowledge.

He worked hard yet appeared not to do so, always having time to entertain his friends. His last book, which he finished recently, was his memoirs. These are to be published in about a month's time.

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Gerald BeFay

628 So. Otagamie St., Appleton, Wis.

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12 vols. of John R. Musick (an old dime novel writer) Columbian historical novels, bound in red cloth, vols. 1 to 12 inc. in fine condition.
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WHO'S INTERESTED IN REAL ART BOOKS

We have the following, for sale

The Erotikan. By Dr. Augustin Calanes. 1933 numbered edition, no. 619, 1500 copies printed. Translated from the French language, by Robert Meadows, and also autographed by him. Price \$5.00

120 Days of Sodam. By Dr. Iwan Blach, 1934, No. 220. 3000 copies printed. Price \$4.00

Sexual Relations of Mankind. By Prof. Paolo Mantegazza. Numbered copy, D-1101. Date 1932. Price \$3.00

The Golden Ass. By Lucius Apuleius. 1930. No. 320 99 copies printed. Price \$4.00

The Mines of the Courtesaus Lucian. 1931. Illus. Price \$3.00

The Love Books of Arvid. 1930 Translated from Latin, by J. Lewis May. Colored illus. Price \$4.00

The Pleasures of Marriage. Attributed to Aphra Behn. 1933. Illus. Price \$2.00

A Private Anthropological Cabinet, by Robert Meadows. 1934, No. 863. 1500 copies printed. Price \$2.50

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RECKLESS RALPH'S SUMMER FOR SALE LIST:

Beadles Half Dime Library No. 386 579 490 614 647 623 75c each. 669 50c.
 Wide A Wake Library No. 1036 60c Beadles Dime Library No. 790 \$1.00
 Old Cap Collier Library No. 540 736 544 657 748 600 575 624 60c each
 The Yankee 5c Library (very rare) has piece torn off page 7-8 otherwise all
 O.K. No. 4 \$1. Frank Reade Library No. 146 \$2. Comic Library No. 16 \$1.50.
 State Trooper Adventure Series new paper books worth while 601 2 3 4 25c ea.
 Beadles Dime Tales, six nos. in 1863-64 the lot \$20. A rare lot worth having.
 Beadles Dime Biographical Library No. 12 \$2. Beadles Dime Series US Grant \$2.
 Ballou's Early Dime Novel Libraries, such as Novelette Library, etc. large
 and small No. 9 17 14 19 21 26 31 80 97 85 110 117 146 127 174 171 172 \$1 ea.
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 lows—Florida, or The Iron Will—Captain Molly, or The Fight at Trenton—On
 The Plains; The Race for Life—Karaiho; or The Outlaws Fate. Four nos.
 bound in red cloth, no outside wrappers. \$5 takes it. Quite an oddity.
 Red Raven Library, Fine A1 shape No. 27 28 33 35 36 37 \$1 ea. or \$5 for
 all seven. The Men They Could Not Hang 25c. Old Sleuth's Own No. 17 18 19
 20 21 42 57 68 98 99 109 115 116 117 10c each. Life in the Woods—25c. Gilbert
 Patten and his Frank Merriwell's Saga \$1 also has some history on other
 novels and weeklies too. Randolph's Book on Western Poems of the Old Scouts
 such as Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill, Texas Jack, California Joe, other fine ones 25c
 True Blue No. 39 25c. Golden Argosy No. 264 to 312 \$7 takes lot. Frank Leslie's
 Chimney Corner for 1868. Vol. 7 No. 157-208 inc. (172 has front page over half
 torn out, also 180 has front cover missing, otherwise all OK and bound in
 one vol. and who ever bound them. I guess he was drunk, ha ha.) Bound in
 cardboard and part leather, and full of nice interesting pictures too. \$5 takes
 this volume. 16 assorted copies of Golden Hours No. 420 422 426 429 430 431
 432 434 435 436 438 439 448 451 456 464 price 15c each, some are taped, but
 otherwise all OK. Pluck and Luck (Jack Wright stories) No. 1027 1033 1043
 1075 1079 1083 40c each. Pluck and Luck (Jack Wright) No. 193 \$5 a beauty.
 Large Size Work & Win (Fred Fearnot Stories) No. 778 782 786 790 797 798
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 619 759 749 880 877 990 888 912 916 922 929 931 960 645 738 25c each. Most in
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 Thomas's Massachusetts Spy; or The Worcester Gazette for June 27, 1793 \$1
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 Banner No. 129 scarce 25c. The Harrison Keith stories in New Magnet library
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 590 593 596 599 602 605 608 611 614 617 620 623 626 638 641 644 655 661 \$10.00
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 31 33 38 42 43 44 49 25c each. Medal Library No. 3 5 9 14 51 53 54 118 25c ea.
 New Magnet Library No. 596 711 561 765 867 871 876 968 1009 1015 1036 1050
 1075 1134 1154 10c each. Magnet Library No. 29 97 122 158 167 192 262 273 333
 257 289 404 445 449 471 473 1020 10c each. Pluck & Luck No. 1451 1492 1499
 1530 1533 1537 1544 1545 1550 1551 1552 1553 1554 1555 1559 1577 1578 1582 1597
 1c ea. Work & Win No. 1200 1202 1355 1357 10c ea. Wild West Weekly No. 968
 981 982 989 991 992 1007 1012 1034 1048 1046 1219 1227 1231 10c ea. Union Jack
 No. 999 1004 1144 1147 1150 10c ea. True Flag 644 660 637 601 367 431 482 622
 636 602 5c ea. Work & Win No. 1119 1121 1123 1125 1137 1147 1148 1172 1176
 1181 1183 1185 1197 1197 1214 1220 1225 1314 1364 5c ea. Fame & Fortune No.
 1140 1141 1168 1189 5c ea. Pluck & Luck No. 1424 1437 1445 1473 1474 1475
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 1554 1568 1571 1596 5c ea. Wild West 956 960 962 963 971 972 973 974 978 983
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